

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 – 8, 12 – 16 contain allowable subject matter and for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview on April 19, 2007.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests to indicate whether the drawings filed on October 25, 2001 are acceptable.

Priority Claim

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim of foreign priority. The present application is a continuation of PCT application PCT/FR 00/01137 filed on April 28, 2000, which claims priority to French Patent application FR 99/05444 filed on April 29, 1999.

Disposition of claims

Claims 1, 4 – 9, and 12 – 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 are independent. Remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, 17, and 18.

Claim amendments

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 have been amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112. See page 2 of Office Action dated April 5, 2007. In light of the Examiner Interview conducted on April 19, 2007, the term “associated with” in claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 has

been replaced by the term “corresponding to.” No new matter has been added by way of these amendment, as support for the amendment may be found, for example, on page 4, line 32 and page 5, line 3 of the Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Particularly, the rejection states that the rejected claims are vague and indefinite by usage of the term “associated.” As noted above, claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 have been amended to replace the phrase “associated with” with the phrase “corresponding to.” Applicant believes that the above amendments sufficiently address the issues raised by the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

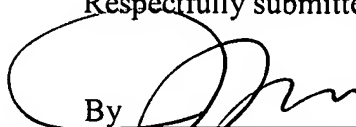
Claims 4 – 8, and 12 – 16 have been objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. In view of above amendments, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 9 are now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 4 – 8, and 12 – 16 are also allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/012001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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